



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **Public Affairs**

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### **Twenty-three-year-old Waterville, Maine man pleads guilty to the Possession and Distribution of Images of Child Pornography by Means of a Computer**

**Washington, D.C.** - United States Attorney Kenneth L. Wainstein and John C. Richter, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice, announced today that Zachary John Nielson Gimpel, 23, of Waterville, Maine, pled guilty yesterday before U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan to one count of a criminal information charging him with Sexual Exploitation of Minors Through the Knowing Transportation of Visual Depictions of Sexually Explicit Conduct Using Minors in Interstate Commerce by Means of a Computer. The charge carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years and a maximum penalty of twenty years. The plea agreement contemplates a 62-month period of incarceration should Judge Sullivan accept the sentence proposed by the parties when Gimpel is sentenced, which is currently scheduled for November 18, 2005. Gimpel was arrested on a criminal complaint on March 25, 2005, in Portland, Maine, and brought to the District of Columbia for prosecution after an investigation by the United States Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force.

According to the government's evidence, Gimpel distributed child pornography over the internet to an undercover investigator on April 30, 2004. In addition, Gimpel possessed images of known

child victims of sexual abuse accessed on the computer he used on April 30, 2004. Gimpel operated his mother's computer as a file server which allowed selected files to be downloaded by the public and allowed the public to upload files to that computer. He also advertised on specified Internet Relay Chat (IRC) channels a willingness to receive or distribute files. Gimpel advertised his file server on the "100%preteengirlsexpics" IRC channel, making available to the public a collection of thousands of images and movie files of child pornography and erotic depictions of children. Over 40 of the images of child pornography were produced through the use of actual minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct and the material was a visual depiction of such conduct.

In announcing the guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Wainstein and Acting Assistant Attorney General Richter praised the investigative efforts of U.S. Secret Service Special Agents Craig N. Fraser, Brian Pellerin, and Christopher Wease and Assistant U.S. Attorney Heidi M. Pasichow and Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section Attorney Sara Gottovi, who conducted the investigation and prosecution of the case.

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